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For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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Firefighter Vulnerability Assessment Program

Fire departments now have a new assessment tool to help them identify and minimize predictable causes of line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

The [Vulnerability Assessment Program](#) (VAP), created by the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration, was designed to help departments “develop operational and strategic plans to implement the risk reduction recommendations necessary to minimize or eliminate predictable causes of line-of-duty injuries and deaths.”

Department officers will fill out an online inquiry form. After the assessment is complete, the tool provides departments a customized report categorizing areas of vulnerability. This gives department leadership an idea of where they fall on the ranking scale of low to high based on the six identified causes of firefighter death and injury.

This [free and confidential tool](#) (PDF, 134 Kb) and individualized report also provides recommendations for changes and corrections to fix and minimize any vulnerabilities found.

(Source: [Vulnerability Assessment Program](#))

Fireworks Safety

The Fourth of July celebrations would not be complete without fireworks displays, but this unfortunately is paired with the accidents and injuries they cause. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports an average of [230 people go to the emergency room with fireworks-related injuries every day in the month around July 4th](#). More than 50 percent of the injuries are burns. Fireworks are also responsible for numerous [structure fires](#) each year.

While public safety campaigns suggest leaving fireworks up to the professionals, people will continue to put them at home. The CPSC and several other agencies have resources available for public safety campaigns including:

- [The U.S. Fire Administration](#) – offers pre-written Facebook and Twitter messages as well as videos, fliers, and posters;
- [Safe Kids](#) – a list of tips for families on how to keep children safe;
- [National Fire Protection Association](#) – produced a video, Fireworks Fact

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

Sheet, and statistics detailing injuries and property loss due to fireworks.

Fire and EMS crews can also brush up on their protocol and procedures for burns, eye injuries, and hand, head, and face injuries as these are the most common types to see from fireworks.

(Source: [USFA](#))

NFPA: Majority of Firefighter Deaths Cardiac-Related

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics just released report [more than half of the 64 firefighter fatalities in 2014 were caused by sudden cardiac events](#). The second highest cause was crashes, and the third was rapid fire progress/explosion.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2007 reports [firefighters are at 100 times higher risk of heart attack than the national average when working a fire](#) and face higher risks than average when responding to or returning from a fire and when doing physical training. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) [Fire Fighter Fatality Map](#) shows the trend continuing with 22 of the 35 firefighter fatalities reported so far in 2015 caused by heart attack.

By and large, heart attacks are preventable deaths and properly adjusting exercise and especially diet will often turn around [markers of heart disease in bloodwork and other tests](#). It is important departments support their personnel with health and wellness programs that are accessible, and decide if health and fitness standards are a viable option to implement and enforce within the department.

NIOSH's 2007 report "[Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events](#)" discusses the problem in more detail and lists recommendations for departments and firefighters to reduce and prevent cardiac-related deaths.

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Virtual Instructor Lead Training: IEDs & Explosives

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Bombing Prevention (OBP) is hosting several virtual classes over the next three months. "[Improvised Explosive Device \(IED\) and Explosives Effects Fundamentals](#)" (PDF, 596 Kb) is a one-hour Virtual Instructor Lead Training (VILT) course providing an overview of the threat from IEDs, identifying components, reviewing explosive effects fundamentals, and describing safety precautions to take when encountering a real or suspected IED.

This VILT is ideal for first responders, public safety personnel, and the private sector. Most of the [OBP courses](#) are hosted on location at various cities and towns around the country. This course provides first responders an opportunity to access OBP training if one has not been scheduled near them previously.

Interested participants must register using the links provided in the flier's calendar. You must also have [a Student Identification Number](#) (SID) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to register for the course. Trainings are currently scheduled through September.

(Source: [DHS OBP](#))

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For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the **National Infrastructure Coordinating Center** by phone at 202-282-9201, or by email at nicc@dhs.gov.